

football program rested entirely on his shoulders. Unlike college coaches of today, who are often awarded large contracts and lucrative television deals, Coach Robinson had to build his program from the ground up—literally. During prep basketball games, the new coach sold hamburgers so that he could afford to rent a bulldozer that could clear a field on which his team could practice and play. Once, he persuaded the members of his team to pick cotton so that a farmer's son, who happened to be the school's top running back, could join the team.

In subsequent years, Coach Robinson built Grambling football into one of the most successful and well-known football programs in the Nation. Today, Coach Robinson and his Grambling Tigers are household names across the country. Throughout the National Football League, the team that Eddie built is known as one of the best proving grounds for the NFL stars of the future. More than 300 of his players have gone on to careers in professional football.

In 1971 alone, 43 former Grambling players were in NFL training camps. Four of his players—Willie Brown, Willie Davis, Charlie Joiner, and Buck Buchanan—are members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. And another former player, Doug Williams, became the first black quarterback to win a Super Bowl.

Mr. President, these are some of the accomplishments of Coach Robinson's extraordinary career. But they don't tell the whole story of the amazing life of this son of a former sharecropper. That is because it is Coach Robinson's example off the football field that has proved just as inspirational.

As a devoted husband and father and an exemplary citizen, Eddie Robinson symbolizes what is best about our country. As those of us who know him can attest, he is the very embodiment of the values of integrity, dignity, loyalty, humility, dedication, and excellence that most Americans still wish for their children. In a day and time when heroes are few and far between, I suggest that the young people of America look no further than Grambling State University for a true American hero named Eddie Robinson—a hero not only because of his success on the football field, but because of his winning attitude toward life and the extraordinary content of his character.

I know that I speak for every Member of this body when I congratulate Coach Robinson for his many outstanding accomplishments on and off the football field. We wish he and his family every success and happiness in this new and exciting phase of their lives. ●

THE "SAVER" BILL

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask that a letter from the Society for Human Resource Management in support of the SAVER bill be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
Alexandria, VA, November 6, 1997.

U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the Society for Human Resource Management, SHRM, I am writing to enthusiastically endorse the Savings Are Vital for Everyone's Retirement (SAVER) Act, which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives under suspension of the rules. This bipartisan legislation may be considered on the Senate floor very soon. SHRM is the leading voice of the human resource profession, representing the interests of more than 89,000 professional and student members from around the world.

Today most individuals are able to retire in a fashion that meets their needs. On average, workers retire earlier and live longer than in the past. However, a number of trends in the economy and workplace suggest that it will become increasingly difficult for American workers to meet their needs for adequate retirement income. The U.S. population is aging rapidly and the elderly live longer. The retirement of the baby boom generation will impose severe pressure on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. It is clear that a coordinated strategy is needed.

That is why this legislation is so critical. This legislation directs the Department of Labor to maintain an ongoing education and outreach program to the public to educate America about the need to save more. The SAVER Act also convenes a National Summit on Retirement Savings to be held by April 15, 1998 and every four years thereafter. The summit would bring together experts from the employee benefits and retirement arena, and give lawmakers access to the research and recommendations of experts so that America can meet the challenges ahead. This bipartisan legislation should be actively supported by all member of the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration of this key legislation. SHRM looks forward to working with the full Senate to see this legislation passed in 1997.

Sincerely,

DEANNA R. GELAK,
Director, Governmental Affairs. ●

RECOGNITION OF REVEREND WALTER J. KEISKER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I stand before you today to recognize a tremendous individual who has exemplified citizenship, character, and service to humanity throughout his life, Reverend Walter J. Keisker.

This special servant of God and man was bestowed an honorary degree of doctor of divinity in 1993 by Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for 70 years of faithful service. In accepting the honor Reverend Keisker stated, "There are others more deserving of the degree, but I am humbly grateful for it." Anyone ever associated with Reverend Keisker will acknowledge the humbleness of this special gentleman, but they will know the unique spirit and tenacity that brought about a rich lifetime of accomplishments. Whether it was the Boy Scouts, Ministerial Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society, or one of his many other activities, Reverend Keisker was totally dedicated, an enduring example of serv-

ice, integrity, faithfulness, and love in the best spirit of American citizenship.

On November 12, 1997, the Lutheran Family and Children Services [LFCS] of southeast Missouri will host the Second Annual Walter J. Keisker dinner. I commend LFCS for the foresightedness in choosing Reverend Keisker to lead the LFCS mission. I can think of no better example to inspire others to assist in building family life. ●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CARLISLE WILLIS BUZZELL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, 100 years ago, Mark Twain wrote, "Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry." Although I cannot speak for the undertaker, I believe I accurately represent all of Carlisle Willis Buzzell's friends, family members, and fellow aviators in saying that this country, and the Navy which serves it proudly, lost an invaluable asset when Carl peacefully passed away last July. Mr. President, I rise today to humbly commemorate a man whom I am proud to have known, in a time and place far removed from the Senate floor from which I speak today.

After a 3-month stint in the Army, Carl wisely joined the U.S. Navy in 1946, first as a petty officer, then as a midshipman at that boat school on the Severn River, better known as the Naval Academy to all who have not had the privilege of climbing Herndon at the end of plebe summer and celebrating June Week before graduation. Carl proceeded on to a distinguished career as a naval aviator, with tours of duty both stateside and in the Mediterranean, Pacific, and Atlantic theaters.

I had the honor of flying with Carl when we were stationed together on the U.S.S. *Forrestal* (CVA-59), a carrier better known for the vicious fire which consumed its flight deck than for the raw heroism of the thousands on board who labored to save the vessel, and themselves, from the flames. As head of the *Forrestal's* Combat Information Center, Carl was likely better positioned to evaluate and respond to the crisis than I, who held the dubious distinction of being the lucky pilot whose A-4E was hit by a Zuni rocket on the flight deck, thereby igniting the inferno.

Carl went on to serve on the staff of the Naval War College, where he helped pioneer the latest in interactive computer technologies at the Center for War Gaming. This capped the Commander's 28-year naval career, following which he managed General Electric's turbojet engine programs and was responsible for maintaining the operational readiness of its engines in support of Navy aircraft.

As indicated by his private-sector work on turbojet engines for F/A-18 and F-14B/D fleet fighter aircraft, Carl's loyalties to the Navy were not diminished by his retirement from the service. Indeed, he reaffirmed his commitment to his aviation roots through

active membership on the boards of the Boston chapters of the Naval Academy Alumni Association, the New England Advisory Committee of Business Executives for National Security, and the Patriots Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation.

Mr. President, as a Naval Academy graduate and former naval aviator myself, I must concede that my respect for the service and professionalism of my friend Carl may be partially accountable to the parallels between his naval career and my own, although his subsequent decision to enter the private sector perhaps demonstrated more foresight than my own choice to enter politics and make my living at public expense.

But do not take my word as evidence of Carl's exemplary service to his country. The World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Vietnam Service Medal, all of which were awarded to Commander Buzzell during his naval career, stand as proof positive of his dedication to the core values that distinguish our servicemembers to the same degree today as when Carl enlisted in 1946, 1 year after victory in a most terrible war had confirmed the resilience of our ideals and the promise of the American Century.

Mr. President, Carl Buzzell lived a life whose end deeply saddens all of us who know of his loyal service to this Nation. May his legacy long stand in testament to the virtues of a life dedicated to honor, country, and family. ●

RECOGNITION OF GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize Hilary A. Holmes of Girl Scout Troop 7756. Hilary is an outstanding young woman who has received the Girl Scout Gold Award from the Nyoda Girl Scout Council in Huron, SD. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. This award exemplifies her outstanding feats in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

Hilary is one of just 20,000 Gold Award recipients since the creation of the program in 1980. In order to receive this award, Hilary completed the many Gold Award requirements. She earned three interest project patches: the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge. Also, she created and executed a Girl Scout Gold Award project which included service to area flood victims.

Mr. President, I feel Hilary deserves public recognition for her tremendous service to her community and her country. I offer my congratulations to her for her hard work and effort in reaching this milestone. ●

STRAIGHT-A STUDENTS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate 4th grader Dallas Julianna Smolarek, 2d grader Candice Vaughn Smolarek, and kindergartener Brandon Tyler Smolarek for their outstanding academic success in the recent school year. All three students have received straight-A report cards and are on their way to success in school and all their personal endeavors.

We all agree over the importance of a good education, and I am pleased to see such fine young students maintaining a strong desire to perform to the best of their abilities. No doubt a role model for their classmates, Dallas, Candice, and Brandon have assumed academic leadership paralleled by few others. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, congratulations to them and best wishes for their future success. ●

RETIREMENT OF PAUL W. JOHNSON AS CHIEF OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this week marks the end of Iowa native Paul Johnson's remarkable 4-year tenure as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the Department of Agriculture. As a long-time farmer and conservationist, Paul brought to NRCS a bold vision of private lands as a national resource to be managed in harmony with the environment.

During the past 4 years, Paul guided his agency through a major reorganization, from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and has shaped the agency's programs and policies to reflect this new emphasis on the conservation of all natural resources. Paul's leadership has inspired a new commitment to conservation both within USDA and across the country.

Paul's influence was obvious in the development of the landmark conservation title of the 1996 Farm Bill, which included among many important provisions the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. The creation and implementation of these programs under Paul's direction are hallmarks of the energy, creativity, and commitment that he brought to NRCS, and of the legacy he leaves behind.

The agency's eloquent publication, "A Geography of Hope," is a visionary statement of the NRCS mission and testimony to Paul's farm roots and passion for the land. For 23 years on his farm in Decorah, IA, Paul has raised corn, hay, and Christmas trees, and had a dairy herd and sheep.

In our home State Paul is highly regarded as an architect of environmental legislation. As a representative in the Iowa General Assembly from 1984 to 1990, he authored the Iowa

Groundwater Protection Act, the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, the Iowa Energy Efficiency Act and the Iowa Integrated Farm Management Program. For his leadership in the State he was named conservation legislator of the year by several organizations in Iowa and was named to the Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame by the Wildlife Society.

Paul holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan, where he also pursued doctoral studies in forestry. He taught forestry in Ghana for two years, and has been visiting professor of environmental policy at Luther College. Paul worked for the USDA Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest and also has studied and consulted on forestry, agriculture, environment, and energy issues in Honduras, Costa Rica, Sweden, and the former Soviet Union.

Paul served on the Board of Agriculture of the National Academy of Sciences from 1988 to 1994, where he was involved in major studies in agriculture, forestry, and conservation. He also has served as an assistant commissioner for his local soil conservation district.

Paul brings both a global perspective and a local sensibility to conservation. While I am sorry to see him leave NRCS, I look forward to his return to Iowa, where he will continue to enrich our State. I would like to extend congratulations on a job well done, and wish Paul and his wife Pat the best on their return home. ●

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding university in my home State of Missouri, Southwest Missouri State University [SMSU]. SMSU was one of 135 schools in 42 States selected to the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll, a designation recognizing colleges and universities that emphasize character building as an integral part of the college experience.

Being the only public institution in Missouri to earn the 1997-98 honor roll distinction, SMSU is also one of the eight State-funded schools to receive the award nationwide. Schools competing for the honor roll were judged on 5 criteria and out of 2,208 4-year accredited undergraduate institutions only the top few were chosen. One of the categories where SMSU stood out was in community service. During the 1996-97 school year the SMSU campus, including the faculty and students, volunteered more than 69,500 hours.

It is an honor for the entire State of Missouri to have a university like SMSU, whose service and character-building programs have earned it this distinguished award. I commend SMSU's President, Dr. John Keiser, for his commitment to excellence and hope for continued success in the future. ●